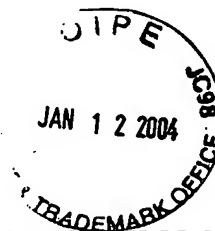


Specification



Title of the Invention

~~Means for stabilizing hemoglobin~~ **MEANS FOR STABILIZING HEMOGLOBIN**

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP00/0440 filed on 07/03/2000 which claims benefit of priority to Application No. 11/188132 filed in Japan on 07/01/1999.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method for stabilizing hemoglobin and a composition containing stabilizing hemoglobin~~the same~~.

Background of the Invention

Hemoglobin is a ~~hem-protein~~ heme-protein existed in red blood cell, which is constituted with tetramer consisting of 2 pair of polypeptide chains, (each chain is bound to 1 mol ~~hem~~ heme), named as α - and β -chains, and having ~~65,000 of a~~ molecular weight of 65,000. The hemoglobin ~~are~~ is contained in blood in an amount of 16 to 18 g/dL for male, and 14 to 16 g/dL for female, and play an oxygen transporting function by ~~reversively~~ reversibly attaching/detaching oxygen to iron ~~molecule~~.

Because of maintaining such a rule, a measurement of the hemoglobin is one of the basic measurement items in a clinical laboratory test, and is utilized as a diagnosis of anemia, i.e., iron deficiency anemia, hypoplastic anemia, hemolytic anemia, and etc., in combination with red corpuscle number and hematocric value. Recently, by detecting an extremely small amount of hemoglobin contained in a stool, the measurement is advantageous ~~takes advantage in determination for a~~ the diagnosis of colon cancer.

On the other hand, a glycated hemoglobin is produced by non-enzyme reaction between hemoglobin and glucose. A measurement of the glycated hemoglobin in blood is reflected with a control of blood sugar concentration for past 3 or 4 weeks, and is effectively available as an indication of blood sugar concentration in long term, which is not affected by daily meals. In the present specification, hereinafter, ~~a the~~ term of hemoglobin is used, as ~~totally~~ including the total of hemoglobin and glycated hemoglobin.

At present, the measurement of the hemoglobin in clinical laboratory takes place with HPLC method, immunological method, affinity method, electrophoresis method, isoelectric fraction method, TBA (2-thiobarbituric acid) method, RIA (Radio Immuno Assay) method, Photic acid method, furosine determination method, and the like.

On measuring the hemoglobin above, a substance which may be of standard and control material[[,]] is required. However, the hemoglobins are unstable, and lose their oxygen binding function, and ~~a hem-heme~~ iron is changed from Fe^{2+} to Fe^{3+} , by oxidation, and ~~are changed~~ change in color from clear red to dark brown. Furthermore, the hemoglobin ~~are~~ noted to be oxidized to methemoglobin, ~~even by exposing~~ exposure thereof to air[[,]] and by lyophilization.

As a method for protecting such an oxidization, there is a method for which, on a site, where an oxygen is to be bound, two moles of atoms, such as CO, NO, CN, etc., which have almost the same diameter as that of oxygen, are previously bound, or a method for adding sodium azide on lyophilization step. However, these methods have drawbacks, in that the operations are ~~in~~ troublesome; one of the methods provides significantly inadequate low amount, or another is impossible in operability. Besides these, a disposal problem regarding ~~trouble on~~ sodium azide arose due to poisoness. Further, even though a method for adding a compound containing nitrogen is disclosed in the publication (Laid-open Japanese Patent Publication No. Sho60-35270), an effect for preventing separation of free iron form from

That is, one of the gists of the present invention is to provide a stabilizing agent for hemoglobin, characterized by stabilizing hemoglobin in a state of solution.

The sulfur containing agent of the present invention is of compound with SH group.

Besides these, according to the present invention, said compound with SH group may be one of the ~~compound~~compounds selected from the group consisting of ~~[[,]]~~ sulfur containing amino acid, such as cysteine, methionine, cystine, ~~and~~-etc., and family derivatives thereof; and sulfur containing ~~compound~~compounds, such as thioglycol acid, 1-thioglycelin, thiodiglycol, mercaptoethanol, glutathione, dithiothreitol and etc., and family derivatives thereof.

According to the present invention, the compound with a SH group may be cysteine and family derivatives thereof.

The present invention is characterized in that the sulfur containing compound is contained in an amount of 0.01 to 0.00001 part by weight based on 1 weight part of hemoglobin.

According to the present invention, said hemoglobin may be hemoglobin.

According to the present invention, ~~said hemoglobin may be~~ said hemoglobin may be glycated hemoglobin.

Another ~~gist aspect~~ of the present invention is a method for stabilizing hemoglobin of the present invention.

~~Further gist~~ A further aspect of the invention is a composition characterized by incorporating hemoglobin with the stabilizing agent for hemoglobin of the present invention.

Still ~~further gist~~ another aspect of the present invention ~~is at least~~ involves incorporating the stabilizing agent for hemoglobin ~~and in~~ hemoglobin of the present invention.

Still yet another gist aspect of the invention ~~is~~ involves use of the sulfur containing compound in the stabilizing agent of the present invention.

~~Best mode for carrying out~~ Detailed Description of the Present Invention

According to the present invention, ~~the hemoglobin~~ ~~mean~~ means hemoglobin and glycated hemoglobin. An example of the glycated hemoglobin includes HbA_{1c}. ~~And another~~ Other example examples of the hemoglobin includes HbA_{1a}, HbA_{1b}, HbF, HbA₀, HbA₂, oxyhemoglobin, carbonylhemoglobin, methohemoglobin, cyanomethohemoglobin, alkali modified hemoglobin, and the like, and other heterohemoglobin. Besides these, modified hemoglobin, such as phosphate ester derivatives of hemoglobin, hemoglobin-polyalkylene conjugates, hemoglobin-inuren conjugates, and hemoglobin-haptoglobin complexes, are also included in the present invention. Further, the hemoglobin of the present invention may be available not only in human origin, but also animal origin, for example, cow, pig, sheep, horse, dog, monkey, rabbit, chicken, and the like. These are used as a standard or control material for various ~~in a dried substance~~ substances, as a lyophilized agent, and maybe in a form of dried agent, liquid agent, etc., if desired.

The first and principal ~~gist~~ aspect of a stabilizing method and stabilizing agent for hemoglobin according to the present invention, resides in insuring ~~[[a]]~~ stability of hemoglobin in a liquid state. ~~It is meant by~~ This means securing stability of the hemoglobin in a dried ~~remendy~~ state and in a state of solution.

A stabilizing method for the hemoglobin according to the present invention is to incorporate a sulfur containing compound in order to stabilize thereof. Addition of the sulfur containing compound is more convenient by adding it in a process for preparing agent~~[[,]]~~; however, such may be attained by conventionally adding after dissolving the agent, on demand. The hemoglobin standard material and control material, in which the hemoglobin is the main ingredient and the sulfur containing compound is contained as a stabilizing agent,

are provided[[,]] by adding the sulfur containing agent in a step for preparing agent. If the agent is to be the type, of which the compound is added on demand, the main ingredient and the stabilizing agent containing sulfur containing agent are separately prepared in [[a]]the form of a kit product.

As the sulfur containing agent according to the present invention, ~~compound~~ compounds with SH group ~~is~~ are well-known and widely available. Compound with SH ~~group includes groups include~~ sulfur containing amino acid, such as cysteine, methionine, etc.; sulfur containing compound, such as thiobenzoic acid, thioglycol acid, 1-thioglycerine, thiodiglycol, mercaptoethanol glutathione, dithiothreitol, etc., and ~~family derivatives~~ thereof. These may be used singly or in combination. The most preferable is the sulfur containing amino acid, such as cysteine, methionine, cystine, and the like, and ~~family derivatives~~ thereof. ~~The particularly preferably~~ Particularly preferred is cysteine and ~~family derivatives~~ thereof.

~~Amount~~ The amount of the sulfur containing agent to be used is 0.01 to 0.00001 part by weight per 1 part by weight of the hemoglobin, preferably 0.001 to 0.0001 part by weight. ~~A~~ The concentration of a solution, when the agent is prepared in [[a]]the form of a solution, is 0.01 to 100 mM, and preferably 0.1 to 10 mM, per hemoglobin of 2 to 10 weight % concentration.

The ~~standard material~~ standard material or control material containing hemoglobin, which is provided and assures stability according to the present invention, may be said ~~as to~~ be a composition containing hemoglobin. Said composition may be incorporated ~~under~~ applying a well-known techniques, in addition of the main ingredient and stabilizer, as base component, with bulking agents, pH control agents for protecting turbidity on ~~solubility thereof~~ solubility thereof, protein, sucrose, high molecular weight compounds, inorganic salts, chelating agents, and the like, or may be combined thereof, on demand.

~~Example~~ Examples thereof includes various buffer solution or pH control agent, which is capable of controlling the pH in a range of 5 to 9, ~~protein~~ proteins such as albumin, gelatin, etc., ~~saccharides~~ saccharides, such as glycerol, sucrose, (preferably disaccharide such as sucrose), etc., polysaccharide[,] such as sodium sulfate dextran, heparin, sodium sulfate, chondroitin, dextran, etc., and high molecular compound such as polyethyleneglycol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polypropylene glycol, etc. These materials maybe used singly[,] or in combination. Besides these, there may be used saccharides such as glucose, maltose, inositol, fructose, glucitol, glucono- δ -lactone, trehalose, maltitol, raffinose, mannitol; inorganic compound such as sodium chloride, sodium phosphate, potassium chloride, calcium lactate, etc., chelating agent such as EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid), EDDA (ethylenediaminediacetic acid), CyDTA (trans-1,2-Diaminocycloheptane-N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid monohydrate), DPTA-OH (1,3-Diamino-2-hydroxypropane N, N, N' , N' -tetraacetic acid), DTPA (Diethylenetriamine-N, N, N' ,N'',N''-pentaacetic acid), EDDP (Ethylenediamine-N, N' -dipropionic acid, dihydrochloride), EDDPO [Ethylenediamine-N,N'-bis(methylenephosphonic acid), hemihydrate], EGTA [Ethyleneglycol-bis-((β -amino-ethylether) tetraacetic acid)], HBED [N,N'-bis (2-hydroxybenzyl) ethylenediamine-N,N-diacetic acid], HDTA (1,6-Hexamethylenediamine-N, N, N',N'-tetraacetic acid), HIDA [N-(2-Hydroxyethyl) iminodiacetic acid], IDA (Iminodiacetic acid), NTP (Nitrilotripropionic acid), NTPO [Nitrilotris (methylenephosphonic acid), trisodium salt], TTHA (Triethylenetetramine-N, N, N' , N'', N''', N'''-hexaacetic acid) , etc., α -, β -CD (cyclodextrin), or these CD modified with polymer, and the like. These may be used singly or in combination.

Examples

The present invention is explained in more detailed with referring to the following examples, which are not ~~extended~~ considered as restricting the present invention.

(Example 1)

The mixture of, an agents stated below, were prepared with or without adding 1 mM L-cysteine, 1 mL mixture were pipetted into 5 mL glass vessel, and were lyophilized to form lyophilized preparation. As hemoglobin, hemoglobin standard containing HbA_{1a}, HbA_{1b}, HbF, and HbA₀ were used, and added in a concentration of 7%.

10 mm	Phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.0)
25 mM	EDTA•2Na
7 %	Hemoglobin standard (JML company)
25 %	Sucrose

(Experimental Example 1)

Each of the lyophilized agents, with or without incorporating L-cysteine, which were prepared in the Example 1, was dissolved in 1 mL distilled water, to compare stability of the hemoglobin in a state of solution, at 25 °C, after 25 hours elapse of time. Measurement of the hemoglobin was performed by detecting absorbance (O. D. value) at 577 nm. (Method in Enzymology, 188, 266-272) . From the results, as shown in the Table 1, by adding L-cysteine, a sufficient stabilizing effect of the hemoglobin in a state of solution was confirmed. Further, a chemical analysis was conducted of each portion using an automatic glycated

hemoglobin analyzer HLC-723GHbIII, ~~manufactured by~~ manufactured by Toso company.

These results showed that ~~was stable~~ stability was provided in all kinds of hemoglobin fractions.

Table 1

	0 Hour	25 Hour
With L-cysteine adding	0.86	0.85
Without L-cysteine	0.86	0.41

(Example 2)

A sample was prepared with the agent, stated below, by adding with or without adding 1 mM L-~~cyteine~~ cysteine. In the same manner, as stated in the Example 1, the hemoglobin standard containing HbA_{1c}, HbA_{1a}, HbF, and HbA₀ was used in order to make a concentration of hemoglobin in 7%.

10 mm	Phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.0)
25 mM	EDTA 2 Na
7 %	Hemoglobin standard (JML company)

(Experimental Example 2)

Each of the agents, with or without incorporating L-cysteine, which were prepared in the Example 2, was studied in comparing stability of hemoglobin after preparation, and at 25°C after 25 hours elapse of time, in the same manner as of the Experimental Example 1. The results ~~were~~ are shown in Table 2. According to adding cysteine, a sufficient stability of the hemoglobin was obtained, regardless of presence of sucrose. Further, chemical analysis of each portion was carried out using Automatic Analyzer of glycohemoglobin HLC-

723GHbIII. These results showed that stability was stable-provided in all kinds of hemoglobin fractions.

Table 2

	0 Hour	25 Hour
With L-cysteine adding	0.85	0.85
Without L-cysteine	0.85	0.43

Possibility in commercially available

By the stabilizing method for hemoglobin and stabilizing agent, characterized in adding sulfur containing compound according to the present invention, the stability of hemoglobin and glycated hemoglobin in a state of solution was secured. Thus, by introducing stabilizing means for hemoglobin, for example, ~~[[a]]~~the stability of a standard material and controlling material-controlling material containing hemoglobin for clinical laboratory test~~[[,]]~~ ~~was improved and was resulted in expecting high-improved, resulting in~~ an expecting highly accurate laboratory test results. The present invention is useful for contributing in the fields of clinical laboratory test and pharmaceutical fieldtests and pharmaceuticals.